

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 SS-15 NSC-05

SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 INR-07 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 H-02

IO-14 /075 W

-----063521 170913Z /15

O 170818Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2065

UNCLAS ATHENS 7594

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: APPROACHES TO COUNTIRES OF TRADITIONAL
IMMIGRATION

REF: STATE 190638

1. REFTEL REQUESTED ATHENS AND OTHER ADDRESSEES TO APPROACH HOST
GOVERNMENT TO STIMULATE RESETTLEMENT OFFERS FOR INDICHINESE REFUGEES.

2. AS ATHENS IS SITE OF MAJOR UNCHR OPERATION OUR ACTIONS IN REGARD
TO REFUGEE MATTERS SEEK TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF UNHCR EFFORT. ACCORDINGLY
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BEFORE APPROACHING GOG, CONSUL GENERAL DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL
WITH OLDRICH HASELMAN, UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE TO GREECE. HIS REACTION
WAS ONE OF APPRECIATION FOR GOG'S CONTRIBUTION TO OVERALL NEEDS FOR
REFUGEE PROGRAMS; HEASELMAN SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT EMBASSY NOT REPT
NOT APPROACH GOG FOR RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE IN GREECE. HASELMAN
OBSERVED THAT EARLIER EFFORTS FOR RESETTLEMENT OF NON-ETHNIC GREEKS
IN GREECE HAVE BEEN UNSECCESFUL OWING TO LANGUAGE AND TRADITIONAL
ETHNIC BARRIERS. IN ADDITION, HE POINTED OUT THAT GREECE SERVES AS
RATHER UNIQUE SAFEHAVEN, OFFERING TEMPORARY REFUGEE FACILITIES ON
WORLD-WIDE BASIS. FOR EXAMPLE, REFUGEE CENTER AT LAVRION HAS IN
RECENT MONTHS RECEIVED REFUGEES FROM LATIN AMERICA, EASTERN
EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST, AND VIETNAMESE ARRIING FROM INDIA, IRAN,
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SOUTH AFRICA, AND JAPAN.

3. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE ATHENS ALSO SERVED AS PROCESSING POINT FOR
2700 ARMENIAN AND ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN REFUGEES ONLY LAST YEAR.
AFTER LEBANON BECAME UNUSABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. PARENTHETICALLY,
ALTHOUGH GOG WAS GIVEN ASSURANCE BY UNHCR THAT REFUGEES BROUGHT TO
GREECE FROM LEBANON FOR PROCESSING WOULD NOT BE LEFT IN GREECE,

106 REFUGEES FOUND TO BE INELIGIBLE FY US, AUSTRALIA OR CANADA
HAVE REMAINED IN ATHENS FOURTEEN MONTHS AFTER CONNCLUSION OF THIS
SPECIAL REFUGEE PROGRAM, WITH LITTLE LIKELIHOOD FOR RESETTLEMENT
UNLESS USG WILL EVENTUALLY WELCOME THEM (SEE SEPTTEL).

4. HASELMAN ALSO INFORMED EMBASSY THAT RELATIVE TO VIETNAMESE
BOAT CASES GOG CURRENTLY IS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF 30
GUARANTEES FOR EVENTUAL RESETTLEMENT IN GREECE, SHOULD UNHCR BE
UNABLE TO PLACE INDIVIDUAL VIETNAMESE ELSEWHERE. THIS IS FIRST
EMBASSY HAS HEARD OF GREECE'S BOAT-CASE GUARANTEE. AS HASELMAN
NOTES, THIS ARRANGEMENT MAKES POSSIBLE TEMPORARY LANDING OF
REFUGEES IN JAPAN AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES, THUS PROVIDING TIME FOR
UNHCR TO ARRANGE RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE.

5. GIVEN GREECE'S CONTRIBUTION TO OVERALL REFUGEE PROGRAM THROUGH
LAVRION REFUGEE CENTER, ITS CURRENT GUARANTEE OF 30 BOAT CASES, THE
USE OF GREECE FOR AD HOC PROCESSING OF REFUGEES, AND REPORTED
DIFFICULTIES OF RESETTLEMENT BASED ON GREECE'S HOMOGENEOUS ETHNIC
CHARACTERISTICS AND LANGUAGE BARRIER, THE EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT
IT FOLLOW HASELMAN'S ADVICE AND NOT APPROACH GOG AT THIS TIME FOR
RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE IN GREECE.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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